

Bipartisan Legislation is Supported By National Taxpayer Advocate Groups

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WASHINGTON – Tuesday, the same day that Rep. Harry Teague was sworn into office, he signed on as an original co-sponsor to H.R. 156 a bill to eliminate the nearly \$4,700 Congressional pay raise scheduled for next year. If the bill becomes law, millions in taxpayer dollars would be saved as Members of Congress would not receive a scheduled 2010 pay raise.

“The country’s economy is hurting right now and my constituents are counting on me to do the right thing,” said Congressman Harry Teague. “Nearly two million Americans lost their jobs this past year. Congress giving itself an automatic pay raise at a time like this is just plain wrong. I’d much rather see us giving middle-class Americans a tax cut -- that would help them and help the economy.”

Sixty-three members of the U.S. House of Representatives co-sponsored the bipartisan legislation this week. This signals the strongest demonstration of Congressional support to block the automatic pay hike in recent years. H.R. 156 has also earned the support of the National Taxpayers Union, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Taxpayers for Common Sense and The Senior Citizens League.

In 1989, Congress passed a law that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise every January unless they vote specifically to reject the raise.

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